

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-04

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R 221359 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 339

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 14132

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, FR

SUBJ: FRANCO- TUNISIAN CONSULTATIONS

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

REF: TUNIS 2719

SUMMARY: FRANCO- TUNISIAN CONSULTATIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN
TUNIS MAY 16-17 COVERED MIDDLE EAST, MEDITERRANEAN AND
EUROPEAN ISSUES. IN ADDITION, TUNISIANS BRIEFED FRENCH ON
ALGERIAN PROPOSAL FOR UNION WITH TUNIS. END SUMMARY.

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS DE WARREN
BRIEFED EMBOFF MAY 21 ON RECENTLY CONCLUDED FRANCO- TUNISIAN
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CONSULTATIONS. DE WARREN, WHO ACCOMPANIED QUAI POLITICAL DIRECTIR PUAUX, PARTICIPATED IN TALKS WITH GOT WHICH NOT ONLY INCLUDED DISCUSSIONS WITH SALAH LADGHAM, BUT ALSO CALL ON SECRETARY GENERAL MESTIRI AND FOREIGN MINISTER MASMOUDI. PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS COVERED WERE MASMOUDI'S IMPRESSIONS OF SOVIET POLICY, BOUMEDIENE PROPOSAL FOR UNION WITH TUNISIA, MEDITERRANEAN CONVERENCE AND CSCE.

2. MASMOUDI MOSCOW VISIT: TUNISIANS EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE DISSATISFACTION WITH THE RESULTS OF MASMOUDI'S VISIT TO MOSCOW. THEY HAD FOUND RUSSIANS CYNICAL ABOUT MIDDLE EAST, UNWILLING TO TAKE MORE ACTIVE ROLE TO PRESS FOR SETTLEMENT, AND EQUALLY UNWILLING TO ACCEDE TO TUNISIAN REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN CSCE. AS HE HAD INDICATED IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH LE MONDE, MASMOUDI FOUND RUSSIANS MORE PREOCCUPIED WITH THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE USG THAN WITH RESOLVING OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS IN THE ARE.

3. ALGERIAN- TUNISIAN UNION: MOST INTERESTING ELEMENT OF DISCUSSIONS WAS TUNISIAN DESCRIPTION OF BOUMEDIENE PROPOSAL FOR UNION BETWEEN ALGERIA AND TUNISIA (REFTEL). DE WARREN CONFIRMED THAT PROPOSAL FOR UNION DID NOT INCLUDE MOROCCO. PUAUX EXPRESSED SERIOUS GOF RESERVATION OF FORMATION OF UNION WHICH APPARENTLY WILL ALSO INCLUDE MAURITANIA AND WHICH WOULD BE SEEN AS ENDEAVORING TO PLACE CORDON SANITARE AROUND MOROCCO. PUAUX CAUTIONED TUNISIANS ON IMPACT THIS MIGHT HAVE ON MOROCCAN INTERNAL SITUATION AND MOROCCO'S GROWING RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION WHICH MIGHT BE ENHANCED. FRENCH DELEGATION GOT IMPRESSION THAT PROPOSAL FOR UNION FAIRLY FAR ADVANCED AND WAS TOLD THAT TWO GOVERNMENTS CONSIDERING AMALGAMATION OF ARMED FORCES BY END OF 1973. ALGERIA AND TUNISIA NOW ACTIVELY CONSIDERING HOW TO INFORM MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT OF UNION PROPOSAL. DE WARREN CONFIRMED THAT IN PRINCIPLE UNION WOULD REMAIN OPEN FOR LIBYA TO JOIN IF IT SO DESIRED, BUT THIS OBVIOUSLY DEPENDED ON EVOLUTION LIBYAN/ EGYPTIAN RELATIONS.

4. MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE: TUNISIANS ALSO RAISED WITH FRENCH SUBJECT OF CONFERENCE ON MEDITERRANEAN SECURITY. WHILE PROPOSAL FOR CONFERENCE REMAINS VERY MUCH UP IN AIR, FRANCH GOT IMPRESSION THAT TUNISIANS CONSIDERING HOLDING EXPERTS' MEETING IN ADVANCE OF NON- ALIGNED SUMMIT IN SEPTEMBER.

5. CSCE: REPORTED SEPTTEL. IRWIN
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NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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